

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating access to a content selection, the method comprising:

receiving a request to access a content selection;

configuring a media player to access a medium associated with the content selection;

accessing the medium associated with the content selection;

~~identifying a profile associated with the medium;~~

configuring the media player to access ~~a permissions engine that interfaces with a multitiered rule base that is configured to store~~ a medium rule base stored with the medium, a media player rule base stored on the media player, and a host rule base stored on the host, wherein the medium rule base ~~is based on~~ includes a set of access rules related to content permissions associated with the medium, the media player rule base includes a set of access rules related to ~~is based on~~ content permissions associated with the media player, and the host rule base includes a set of access rules related to ~~is based on~~ content permissions associated with the host;

~~checking availability of the host rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the host rule base is available, accessing the host rule base;~~

~~checking availability of the media player rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the media player rule base is available, accessing the media player rule base;~~

~~checking availability of the medium rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the medium rule base is available, accessing the medium rule base;~~

identifying priorities for rule bases at the media player, wherein priorities determine the order in which rule bases are accessed within the multitiered rule base based on availability of

~~the medium rule base, the media player rule base, and the host rule base within the multitiered rule base;~~

~~accessing rule bases to analyze the content request in the order of the identified priorities of rule bases in multitiered rule base; and~~

~~using the permissions engine in the media player to enable enabling access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results of the analysis.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprises identifying a profile associated with the medium, wherein identifying the profile includes identifying a reference for the medium.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein identifying the reference includes identifying a unique serial number.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 further comprising identifying a user accessing the content selection.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 ~~wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes~~ further comprising determining an access right for the user for content identified by the profile.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising reporting the content request to a reporting agent.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein reporting the content request includes aggregating multiple content requests associated with a media player and reporting the multiple content requests to a host.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein accessing rule bases using the profile to analyze the content request further includes polling a higher priority rule base to analyze the content request before polling a lower priority rule base.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein accessing rule bases using the profile to analyze a content request includes automatically discovering additional access rights by polling the ~~multitiered~~ rule bases ~~if~~ upon determination that a user attempts to engage in a content request for an operation not previously allowed in accordance with the access right.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising enabling the user to engage in the content request by charging the content request against a user account.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein charging against the user account includes adjusting a license pool that enables the user to engage in one or more licensing operations.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein adjusting the license pool includes adjusting an escrow account for previously purchased access rights that do not specifically identify the content selection.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein charging against the user account includes using an out-of-band token to identify the account, and charging the content request against the user account in response to using the out-of-band token.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein accessing rule bases using the profile to analyze the content request includes using the host rule base to analyze content requests, using the media player rule base ~~if~~ upon determination that the host rule base is

unavailable, and using the medium rule base if upon determination that the media player rule base is unavailable.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~using the profile to analyze the content request~~ includes determining an access right without challenging a user.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein reading the medium includes reading an out-of-band token related to the medium.

17. (Cancelled) .

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein accessing rule bases ~~using the profile~~ to analyze the content request includes enabling a user to copy content only when the host rule base is used to analyze the content request.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein accessing rule bases ~~using the profile~~ to analyze the content request includes enabling a user to copy content when a content-access system rule base is used to analyze a content request and a media player storing the media player rule base has exchanged licensing information with a host.

20-32. (Cancelled).

33. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating access to a content selection, the method comprising:

- configuring a media player to access a medium associated with the content selection;
- accessing the medium associated with the content selection;
- identifying a profile associated with the medium by identifying a reference for the medium;

configuring the media player to access ~~a permissions engine that interfaces with a multitiered rule base that is configured to store~~ a medium rule base stored with the medium, a media player rule base stored on the media player, and a host rule base stored on the host, wherein the medium rule base ~~is based on~~ includes a set of access rules related to content permissions associated with the medium, the media player rule base ~~is based on~~ includes a set of access rules related to content permissions associated with the media player, and the host rule base ~~is based on~~ includes a set of access rules related to content permissions associated with the host;

~~checking availability of the host rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the host rule base is available, accessing the host rule base;~~

~~checking availability of the media player rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the media player rule base is available, accessing the media player rule base;~~

~~checking availability of the medium rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the medium rule base is available, accessing the medium rule base;~~

identifying priorities for rule bases at the media player, wherein priorities determine the order in which rule bases are accessed within the multitiered rule base based on availability of the medium rule base, the media player rule base, and the host rule base within the multitiered rule base;

identifying a user accessing the content selection;

using the profile to analyze a content request ~~with the multitiered rule base~~ by determining an access right for the user for content identified by the profile; and

~~using the permissions engine in the media player to enable~~ enabling access to the content selection at the media player in accordance with one or more results of the analysis.

34. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising checking availability of the host rule base, the medium rule base, and the media rule base and identifying priorities for rule bases at the media player based on the checked rule base availability.